

Classes

Pruning workshops will meet at Ecology Action and then carpool to local mini-orchards; they will last from 10:30 am till 2:30 pm (bring a sack lunch). There is a ten dollar fee for the pruning workshops and pre-registration is required. Our tofu and soy milk classes will be taught by Laurie Praskin, a soy technician who has worked with Plenty International. We are requiring pre-registration for her February 4 class because there will be samples to taste and food must be prepared ahead of time; the fee for this class will be \$2.50. All other classes meet here from 10:30 to noon; the fee is one dollar and pre-registration is not necessary.

January 7 - Fruit Tree Selection and Care

January 14 or 21 - Fruit Tree Pruning Workshops with Kevin Raftery - information covered will be the same each week; sign up for one only

January 28 - Making Soy Milk and Tofu

February 4- Cooking with Soy Products - sign-up is required for this class

February 11 - Garden Planning (How to make a year-round garden plan)

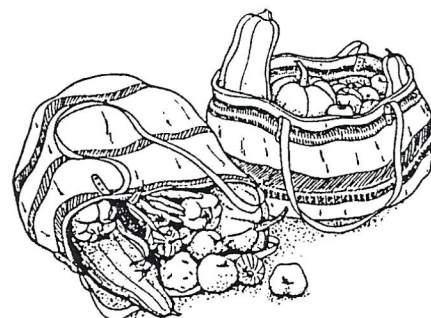
February 18 - Soil Preparation for Bio-intensive planting

February 25 - Compost

March 3 - Seed Propagation

March 10 - Companion Planting

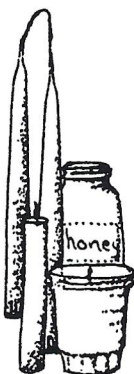
March 17 - Insects



TRY US FOR UNIQUE GIFT IDEAS!

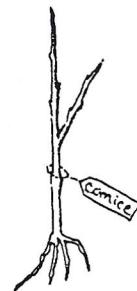
Store News

Baskets from Kenya have arrived and they are beautiful - Beth did a good job of picking colors for us. There are both muted earthy tones and vibrant colors, and at \$19.00 we think we have the best price in town, too! We also have gift certificates, and for out-of-town gardeners we can send a gift certificate and a copy of our new mail-order catalog, Bountiful Gardens. We have amaryllis bulbs all potted up and timed to bloom for the holidays, plus seeds, fertilizers, safe insect control, books, pruning tools, soil test kits, and many other goodies to give to the gardeners on your list. A holiday special at the store is a selection of handmade beeswax candles produced by local beekeepers Mark and Jill Jensen and Fred Dingler. We have several lengths and styles, including a 24-hour candle in a glass container. All have the beautiful golden color and appealing scent of pure beeswax. Fred has also packaged a bee-product sampler with candles, wax, comb honey and propolis. We'll be getting a selection of spring-blooming perennial plants to go in the garden now--delphiniums, columbine, penstemon, larkspur, and others. We have home-grown wreath-making supplies. Give someone you love a gift of growing, and help support our non-profit work as well!



Tree Order

We are planning to do a bulk bare-root fruit tree order. We don't have all the details at this writing...but probably we will be ordering trees from Harmony Farms in Sebastopol, Peaceful Valley Nursery in Nevada City, or Tree Crops in Covelo. We'll take special orders from you and then there will be a pick-up day in January sometime. If you are interested, call Carol at the store for details. This is a good way to get high quality trees for a good price, and we need to know of your interest to make it happen!



Robin's Notes from the Top of the World

...will continue in our next newsletter. In the meantime all is well!

Bountiful Gardens

Bill and Sahnta, with help from Jeri Getz, Mark Tinsley, and Meredith Ittner, worked literally day and night to produce our first full-sized (64 pages!) catalog of seeds, books, and supplies. It's now at the printer in Omaha and will be in our hands sometime in December. Meanwhile the seeds from Chase Organics in England are on their way across the ocean. Now we are anticipating the work of measuring and packaging the seeds and mailing the catalogs. Whew! We are especially grateful for the generosity of some faithful friends of Ecology Action, who loaned us money to pay for the catalog and seeds, helping us launch this new part of our work. Income from our most recent mailing is helping us survive the slow winter season.

Board Meeting

The next meeting of Ecology Action's Board of Directors will be Monday, December 12, at 7:30 pm at Derrick's house, 390 Leland in Palo Alto. There will be a potluck dinner at 6:30 pm and all are welcome -- please call beforehand to let us know if you're coming, at 328-5828.

Serendipity Strikes

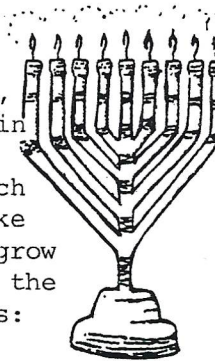
We've been blessed by the hard work of two volunteers recently... David Vick has been refurbishing the lighting system in the shelf units in the store and has them glowing nicely. Ernest Kinsolving has been working at the tedious job of painting colored dots on the backs of all the books in the library, and is also helping us make some fliers to advertise our store and classes. We need another volunteer to take care of our cat, Willow, over the holidays; we will be closed between Christmas and New Year's and he will need love and feeding. He's a charming cat and very affectionate! The store also needs donations of wide-mouth pint and quart jars for seeds. We would prefer canning-jar type jars, rather than peanut butter jars.



Keep the Faith

As the natural year turns round to its darkest time, the winter solstice, Channukah and Christmas both celebrate the coming and enduring of light in our world, and the real difference made in history by the endurance and courage of people of faith. We live now in difficult times; there is much to frighten us -- but we here continue our work in faith that it does make a difference - that planting, growing, and teaching others to plant and grow are ways toward peace. As gardeners, we are fortunate in being close to the continuing miracles of life. We wish you all a new year full of miracles: hope, growth, and peace. You do make a difference!

love,
all of us at EA



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